

GAME PAGE

Amnesia is the Mount Everest of nightclubs. With over 32,000 square feet to take advantage of, Amnesia is a dancer's paradise. Start the night off on Amnesia's covered marble dance floor grooving to the tunes of internationally diverse DJs. Grab a drink at one of Amnesia's

Amnesia

136 Collins Avenue
531-5535



five bars, relax in style in the VIP room, or simply stare out into the open sky and watch the stars twinkle. Big spenders will want to explore Amnesia's private club and cocktail lounge. Also try the restaurant, where patrons can dine on international cuisine.

coffee

Big Star Coffee

In case you have trouble differentiating between cappuccino, espresso and latte, Big Star Coffee has provided its patrons with a large, easy to read breakdown of each coffee they serve. And what a list it is! Coffee lovers will rejoice as they consider the numerous options available to them. Big Star also serves light sandwiches, bagels, cakes, cookies, shakes, smoothies and fat-free items. Friends, sweethearts and singles will all appreciate this straight-from-Seattle coffee house.

1259 Washington Avenue
532-0012

restaurants

Lucky Cheng's

Drag queens serve as waitresses, kitsch pre-vaits and Chino-Latino cuisine pleases all at Lucky Cheng's. With live performances, unique food and charming appeal, Lucky Cheng's is the ideal spot for birthday parties and bachelor(ette) parties. Couples and singles will also find themselves relishing Lucky Cheng's carnival-like experience.

1412 Ocean Drive
672-1505

News Cafe

Located in the thick of Ocean Drive, this sidewalk cafe that has overtaken a good part of the block. Patrons can enjoy the sights and sounds of Ocean Drive, pretty models, roaring motorcycles and tourists, while they dine on a simple menu of international and American cuisine. The News Cafe offers a huge variety of newspapers, magazines as well as other essentials, from film and sunscreen, to aspirin and cigarettes. Day or night, it's always the center of action in South Beach - a great place to meet new friends and eat great food.

600 Ocean Drive
538-3397

Van Dyke Cafe

The Van Dyke Cafe is becoming the only place to be seen on trendy Lincoln Road. Featuring the same classic menu as the News Cafe, the Van Dyke has become a haven for cyclists, skaters and shoppers cruising Lincoln Road. Music lovers will enjoy the second floor of the restaurant, featuring live jazz. Come check out this artsy hot spot.

846 Lincoln Road
534-3600



Virtua Café

South Florida's only Virtual Reality Bar and Café.

Virtua features virtual reality experiences, internet access for your surfing pleasure, interactive media, as well as, the exotic fully-stocked bar, rockin' music and a sultry Victorian lounge.

1309 Washington Avenue
532-0234

Swirl

Swirl boasts comfortable sofas, inexpensive drinks, a cool crowd and no prettitude. This mix of laid-back fun attracts parties from every walk of life. There's a fabulous water-filled bar and lots of fun things to entertain you. Swirl's eclectic environment and crowd make every night a surprise. No two nights are ever alike. Even though Swirl is a neighborhood hangout, patrons will never tire of its retro atmosphere.

1049 Washington Avenue
534-2060

Caffe Torino

Caffe Torino, located in the heart of South Beach, is known for its generous, family-style portions of authentic Italian food. Monday nights explode at the eatery when SoBe's hottest drag performers entertain the crowds with their fun-filled show. This is the perfect place to start your night - either at the bar, or with a full meal of Italian delicacies.

1437 Washington Avenue
531-0722

bars

Society Hill

A hip bar owned by locals, and run by locals. Featuring live bands 4 nights a week. Friday and Saturday, DJs spin dance tunes. Drink specials all week long. No attitude and great parties. What South beach should be!

627 Washington Avenue
534-9993

Lizard Lounge at The Century

South Beach's best kept secret for intimate evenings, private parties or perhaps even a secret rendezvous. We won't tell a soul...promise.

161 Ocean Drive
674-8855

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LIGHTS

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First Person
Gidget,
Cigarette girl at Groove Jet
Smart, sassy, classy.



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Son Voltage

By John Floyd

Pay attention everyone/To play son/You don't need to be strident/Or make too much noise/If you mark out well the beat/With rhythm and with harmony/You'll see that you're playing son/With joy, in the Cuban way.

"El Orgullo de los Soneros," Septeto Habanero

Like King Curtis offering the musical ingredients of his "Memphis Soul Stew" or Chuck Berry detailing exactly what is and isn't "Rock and Roll Music," Septeto Habanero reveals the magic in their music with a song that also defines the genre in which they work. The Havana ensemble's members are masterful practitioners of *son*, the guitar-and-percussion-driven music born in nineteenth-century eastern Cuba, and they kick off their most recent album, *75 Years Later*, with the above instructions. Not only do those words clue you in to what you'll hear on *75 Years* (at least their 100th release), but they also summarize the appeal of the latest batch of CDs on the Mexico-based Discos Corasón label.

Discos Corasón is among the finest purveyors of contemporary Cuban music played in the classic style of old-school masters such as Nico Saquito and Pepe Sánchez. In addition to the set by Septeto Habanero, Corasón has issued beautiful albums by *son* guitar master Eliades

the percussive capabilities of instruments made from bamboo cane.

A warning to all *yanquis*: These discs, like most in the Corasón catalogue, aren't exactly user-friendly. Although the information-packed liner notes are presented in both Spanish and English, song titles are not translated and there are no lyrics whatsoever. For college-Spanish dropouts or world-beat novices weaned on the Luaka Bop label's Anglo-aimed compilations (on which lyrics are not only translated, but explained), that can be very irritating, as much of *son*'s appeal is in its double-entendre lyrics, which tackle matters of sex and romance in the same lascivious way that horny old bluesmen such as Bo Carter and Blind Willie McTell did back in the Thirties. Really, though, it doesn't matter. Like garbled-English classics from "Surfin' Bird" to "Smells Like Teen Spirit," *son* does plenty through the sheer force of its collective sound: the almost conversational interplay between the double bass, bongos, and congas; the ringing lines from a *tres* guitar sailing over a lightly strummed six-string guitar; the steady percussion of *clave* sticks and *güiro* scrapers; and the impassioned delivery of the vocalists.



Cuarteto Patria, masters of the Cuban *trova*

These discs give you an idea of just how much terrain *son* artists can cover and the depth of the music's history.

Ochoa and his band Cuarteto Patria (*The Lion Is Loose*), and by Cañambú, an obscure group from eastern Cuba whose *Son Cubano: The Rhythm Sticks* highlights

the group's original members are dead, but the current lineup's lead vocalist, Manuel Furé, joined in 1952. (For perspective, that's two years before Elvis

Presley made his recording debut and more than a decade before the Beatles and the Rolling Stones released their first albums.) Their full-band approach places an emphasis on chanting vocal choruses, the *tres* playing of Felipe Ferrer, and melodies accented by the trumpet work of Bárbaro Teunter, who turns in some almost majestic solos on "*Tres Lindas Cubanas*" and "*Tincuntán*."

Around since 1940, Cuarteto Patria offers traditional Cuban *trovas* (ballads) in a stripped-down style that leaves ample room for self-taught guitar prodigy Ochoa and his brother Humberto to trade tightly wound leads that work off the former's understated, at times delicate, vocals. Percussion comes from bongo and conga great Roberto Torres. Cañambú's music, meanwhile, is all about the beat: Although the double bass, *tres*, and standard acoustic guitar keep the tunes rolling, the bongos and bass — both cut from bamboo cane — clomp and stomp all over the place, creating a racket that is alternately

chaotic and controlled, often within the same song.

Though each of these groups has a long history in *son*, the most amazing thing about their new albums is how vibrant this practically unchanged music remains — how it can move your heart and move your hips whether you're from Haiti, Hoboken, or you don't know the *chac* from the Charleston. From the exotic, primal thump of Cañambú's "*Guaguancá San Luis*" — on which Aristides R. Boza's vocals pierce through the dense sheets of bamboo percussion — Ochoa's gorgeous, pleading rendition "*Lágrimas Negras*" and Habanero's soaring take on "*Tres Lindas Cubanas*" (both songs are nearly as old as *son* itself) these albums represent the continuing impact of Cuba's greatest musical commodity and the enduring vitality of legacy.

Corasón discs are distributed by Round Records, 1 Camp St., Cambridge, MA 02140.

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